



Both as individuals and as a couple, Mel Kessler and Gail Fisher have contributed significantly to the Tempe community through their outstanding leadership and countless hours of volunteerism.

Over the years, Mel's volunteer efforts in Tempe have benefited a diversified list of organizations. He has given of his time to Tempe schools' PTOs and Band Boosters organizations, served on the Board

of Trustees for Temple Emanuel of Tempe, the Tempe Library Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Board from 1987 through 1993, and the Cancer Resource Network from 1992 to 2003. Prior to the creation of the City of Tempe's Neighborhood Program in 1987, Mel was the chairperson for the Superstition Neighborhood Association. It became one of the models upon which the City's Neighborhood Program was based. In 1996 he received Tempe Leadership's Outstanding Tempe Community Leadership Award and currently serves as the past president of their Board of Directors and on the Tempe Cares planning committee.

Equally as multi-dimensional in her community efforts, Gail has worked to support arts, education, and special projects within Tempe. Her involvement includes a long relationship with Childsplay, Tempe's professional theater company for young audiences, where she served and chaired several committees. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the New School for the Arts, the Tempe Library Advisory Board and the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission. She serves on the Tempe Historical Museum Board and the Tempe Center for the Arts Steering and Executive Committees, where she is helping to create the direction the new center will take when it opens in 2007. In 2005 she received the Arts Advocate of the Year Award from the Arts and Business Council of Greater Phoenix. Having been a teacher, she is equally as passionate about education and was a past member of the Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools Advisory Board. From 1970 until 1998 she taught in the Tempe Union High School District, where she inspired students to strive for personal and professional success, first at Tempe High and then at Corona del Sol. Like her husband, in 1999 Gail also received the Outstanding Tempe Community Leadership Award from Tempe Leadership.

Both Mel and Gail have a long-standing relationship with the Tempe Sister Cities organization. Mel's involvement began in 1984 and continues to this day, 22 years later. Gail's service began in the late 80s and included serving as editor of their award winning *Tempe Sister Cities Quarterly*.

The Kessler-Fisher family includes Mel's two daughters, Melody Kessler and Gail Lottman.

The public is invited to attend the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award Reception. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Heidi's Events and Catering. The cost is \$20 per person. To receive an invitation, please contact Tempe Community Council at (480) 858-2300.